

Message Text

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ORIGIN TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 /092 R

DRAFTED BY TREAS:RSELF

APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:WCLARK,JR.

EB/OT/STA:ECONSTABLE

EUR/RPE:AALBRECHT

EUR/WE:RGALLAGHER

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R 162214Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN FLOAT GLASS - COUNTERVAILING DUTY
INVESTIGATION

1. TREASURY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SUCHMAN MET WITH
ITALIAN ECONOMIC MINISTER SERAFINI ON MAY 14 TO DISCUSS
PENDING COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION ON FLOAT GLASS.
SUCHMAN EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER LACK OF COOPERATION IN
PROVIDING NECESSARY TECHNICAL DATA TO CUSTOMS. HE RE-
MINDED SERAFINI OF EARLIER PROMISE THAT GOI WOULD FULLY
COOPERATE WITH TREASURY INVESTIGATION, DESPITE GOI
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PHILOSOPHICAL POSITION THAT U.S. COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW

IS NOT APPLICABLE TO REGIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.

2. SUCHMAN SAID THAT INFORMATION HAD RECENTLY BEEN RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE IN ROME THAT ALL FLOAT GLASS COMPANIES INVOLVED IN INQUIRY HAD REFUSED TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON GROUNDS THAT DATA REQUESTED WAS CONFIDENTIAL. ALSO, A LETTER WAS PRESENTED IN MARCH TO ITALIAN MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY FROM ROME CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE REQUESTING GOI ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING DATA. ON APRIL 29 DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION CARBONE INFORMED CUSTOMS THAT GOI DID NOT THINK SUCH

ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATE IN LIGHT OF SMALL VOLUME OF FLOAT GLASS EXPORTS TO U.S.

3. SUCHMAN STRESSED THAT TREASURY COULD BE LEFT WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO PROCEED, AS REQUIRED BY LAW, ON THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE, I.E., THAT SUPPLIED BY PETITIONER, IF ADDITIONAL DATA NOT SUPPLIED BY ITALIANS. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE IF TREASURY WERE LEFT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO FOLLOW THIS COURSE OF ACTION IN A CASE AS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AS FLOAT GLASS. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ITALIAN EXPORTS OF FLOAT GLASS HAVE BEEN QUITE SMALL, SUCHMAN REMINDED SERAFINI THAT GIVEN PROVISIONS OF U.S. LAW THIS MAY NOT BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR IN THE ULTIMATE DECISION. SUCHMAN REALIZED THAT INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES COULD DECIDE WHETHER TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON BENEFITS RECEIVED, BUT STRESSED THAT IN VIEW OF ABOVE, GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENLIST THEIR COOPERATION.

4. SERAFINI REPLIED THAT IT WAS STILL DIFFICULT FOR THE ITALIANS TO UNDERSTAND REASON FOR TREASURY'S PURSUIT OF A COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION ON FLOAT GLASS WHEN THEIR EXPORTS TO THE U.S. HAD BEEN SO SMALL. HE REITERATED ITALIAN ARGUMENT DATING BACK TO 1969 THAT ABSENCE OF INJURY STANDARD MAKES U.S. COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW DIFFICULT FOR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESSMEN TO UNDERSTAND. HOWEVER, SERAFINI EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO BE AS COOPERATIVE AS POSSIBLE. HE REQUESTED A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COPY OF CUSTOMS QUESTIONS TO CONVEY TO HIS MINISTRY, AND SUGGESTED THAT A DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT POSITION ON HANDLING OF CASE MIGHT BE FORMULATED THROUGH ITS EFFORTS.

5. SUCHMAN SAID HE WOULD BE IN GENEVA FOR MEETING WEEK OF JUNE 2 AND OFFERED TO VISIT ROME TO DISCUSS FLOAT GLASS CASE WITH GOI IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL. SERAFINI THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD BE USEFUL AND SAID HE WOULD

SO INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON USEFULNESS OF
SUCH A VISIT. JUNE 5 OR 6 WOULD BE PROBABLE DATE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVESTIGATIONS, COUNTERVAILING DUTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE115109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RSELF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750174-0965
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750543/aaaabmyr.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN TRSE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by lzenbel0>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN FLOAT GLASS - COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION
TAGS: ETRD, IT
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006